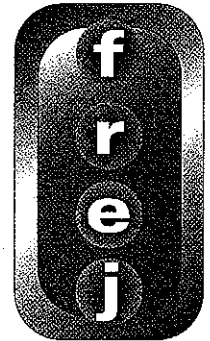


Who's Who in Athens: Women

Women who were not slaves belonged to two classes: Athenian-born women and metics. The difference between these classes was that Athenian-born women could own property, but not metics. Otherwise, the roles and responsibilities of women were similar.

Women in ancient Athens had respect as caregivers and home managers, but they had little independence. Men accompanied them outside the house and approved most purchases. Most of a woman's time was spent at home — cooking, cleaning, spinning, weaving and caring for children, or organizing slaves to do these jobs.

Women could not hold government positions or vote. They could, however, influence the men in their families. They got news of the city through male relatives, servants, and visits to the Agora.



Women in the Government of Ancient Athens

Athenian Women

- couldn't participate in government
- couldn't vote
- could influence citizens

Metics

- couldn't participate in government
- couldn't vote
- could influence citizens

Slaves

- couldn't participate in government
- couldn't vote
- had no influence

How have the rights, roles and status of women changed?

This ancient image shows a Greek woman working at home. What do you think she is doing?

